



The President's Daily Brief

30 September 1972

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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North Vietnam (Page 1)

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Israeli Prime Minister Meir has asserted that Israel will not negotiate with Palestinian exiles and that there is no place within the boundaries of Israel for a Palestinian state. (Page 2)

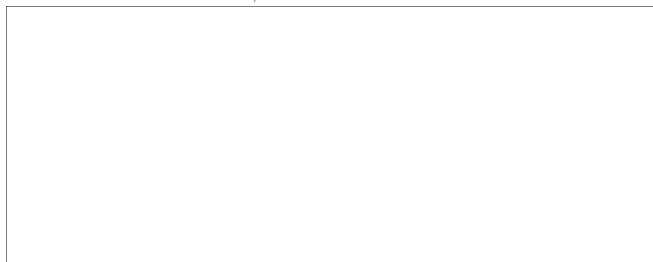
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Panamanian Foreign Minister Tack claims to have wide backing among UN Security Council members for a meeting of that body in Panama City. (Page 4)

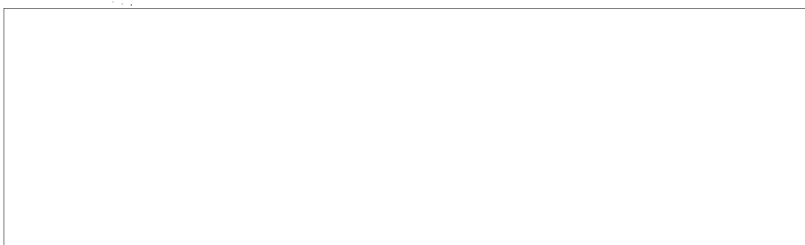
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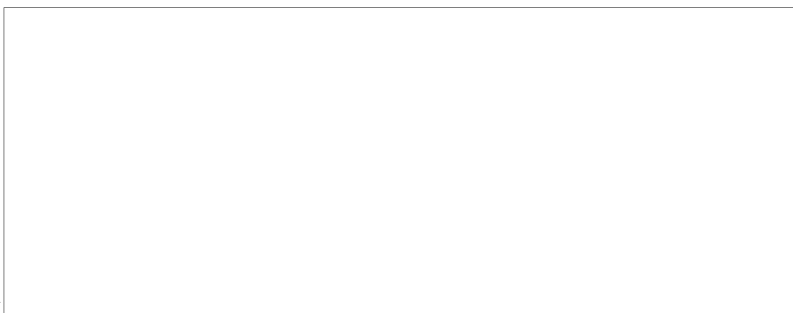
USSR - NORTH VIETNAM



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ISRAEL

In a recent TV interview, Prime Minister Golda Meir put forth Israeli views on the Palestinian exiles and their aspirations. Mrs. Meir stated that Israel would not negotiate with them. She contended that "they have nothing to offer us, and we have nothing to offer them." She said that she saw no place within the boundaries of Israel for a Palestinian state adding "there is no room... nor necessity for that."

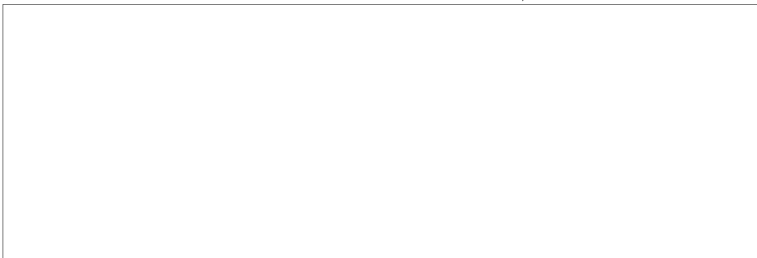
Mrs. Meir's blunt words reflect the Israeli position that the Palestinian refugee problem is not Israel's concern, but that of the Arab states. Her statements also mirror the widespread sentiment in Israel that if the Israelis were to make concessions, such as permitting the refugees to return to their original homes, it would open the flood-gates. Eventually--because of higher Arab birth-rates--the present Jewish majority would be swamped. Mrs. Meir, moreover, is opposed to any independent Palestinian state on the west bank of the Jordan River.

In rebuttal to Mrs. Meir, Egyptian President Sadat on Thursday called for the Palestinians to overcome their differences and to form a provisional government. Although the formation of a Palestinian government in exile has been a frequent topic of discussion among Palestinians, it has not proceeded beyond the talking stage. Moreover, the bitter dissension among the Palestinians themselves and with other Arabs makes such a project difficult indeed.

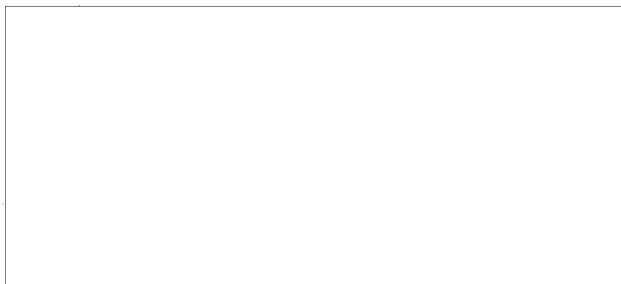
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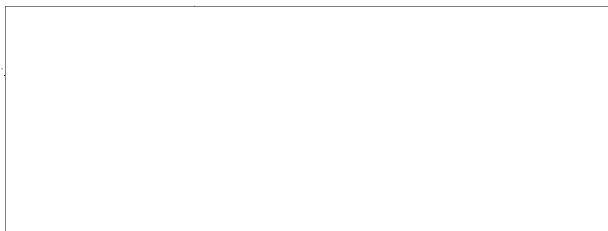
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PANAMA - UNITED NATIONS

Foreign Minister Tack this week told Ambassador Sayre that Panama has the support of 11 members of the Security Council to hold a meeting of that body in Panama City. He requested US support. The British ambassador at the UN confirms that Panama has the backing of all but the US, UK, Australia, and Kenya for such a meeting. He noted that French Foreign Minister Schumann has given Panama personal assurances of support. Panama wants the meeting in March, when its ambassador will be the Council Chairman.

The Torrijos' government has clearly mounted a major campaign to have the Council meet in Panama. A meeting there would not only raise Torrijos' international prestige and feed Panama's nationalism, but would also provide a forum to focus world attention on the canal negotiations. Most Panamanian officials believe that they will have to use pressure tactics to get a satisfactory treaty. International diplomatic support and publicity would be one such measure.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

Mexico: Security forces in the capital are on special alert this weekend to guard against possible hit-and-run bombings by radical dissidents. Officials believe that the anniversary of the massacre of students on 2 October 1968 may provoke bombings similar to those that occurred before President Echeverria's state of the nation address and Independence Day celebrations earlier this month. American installations and businesses may be among the targets.

Iraq-CEMA: Iraq will soon be accorded observer status in the Soviet-dominated Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, according to a Soviet Foreign Ministry official. Baghdad apparently believes that by associating with CEMA it will be able to increase the market for its oil in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. Iraq would be the first non-Communist country associated with CEMA. In addition to the Warsaw Pact countries, Mongolia and Cuba are full members while Yugoslavia, North Korea, and North Vietnam have observer status.

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